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officer to advise with board, and board replies, requesting officer. Nominate acting assistant, and proceed to Little Rock soon as practicable. Consult with Acting Assistant Gibson, and Dr. Woodson, president board. As soon as services as advisor are completed, return to station.

WYMAN,
Surgeon-General.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Morbidity and mortality in the Spanish army in Cuba during the calendar year 1897.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 25, 1898.

SIR: There are in Habana 5 military hospitals, the largest being the Alphonso XIII, which has a capacity of 3,320 beds. It is built of wood on the pavilion plan, and is situated on a high eminence in the outskirts of the city, and is well removed from all other buildings. Its equipment is almost perfect, having been constructed by a Spanish engineer who was educated in the United States. The surface drainage is complete, and if this building is not destroyed it could be utilized by the United States as a hospital for the troops occupying the city of Habana. The lightest mortality of all the military hospitals on the island was recorded here. Cases of yellow fever and smallpox are treated at this hospital, several wards being set aside for that purpose. Here it may be said that but few cases of smallpox have developed among the soldiers.

There is a second wooden hospital called Cuartel de Madera, having 1,000 beds, and situated in the Parish known as Jesus Maria. It is poorly constructed and could only be used as a hospital for yellow fever cases.

The Benificencia Hospital has 2,000 beds; it is situated near the Gulf and is built of stone. The building was formerly used as a foundling asylum, but was taken by General Weyler in 1896. It would be unwise to use this structure as a hospital. No surgical cases were treated in this hospital.

San Ambrosia is an old stone structure situated near the Taliapiedra wharf, and beyond doubt is the filthiest building in Habana, and has always showed a heavy death rate. It should not be used for United States troops. It has 900 beds.

There are two hospitals in Regla, but in the official reports they are made to appear as one, and will be so spoken of in this report. The buildings are old sugar warehouses. They are poorly equipped, and the administration was bad. They contained 3,000 beds. No attempts to isolate cases of infectious or contagious diseases have ever been made. Yellow fever and smallpox were treated in the general wards.

There are also in Habana the following civil or municipal hospitals—Reina Mercedes, Paula, Quinta del Rey, and Dependiente. With the exception of the first, all of them are filthy institutions, and were erected many years ago.

The Reina Mercedes was built in 1885; it is of stone, has 10 pavilions, each holding 24 beds. During the past year it has been overcrowded, and a high mortality has resulted. There were from 400 to 500 patients treated at this hospital from August to December, and there were over 750 deaths in that time. Such a bad state of affairs existed that clinical lectures of the medical college were abandoned on account of the danger to the attending students. Many cases of smallpox occurred there dur-

ing the past five months. There are 56 military hospitals on the island, and with but few exceptions they can not be used by the United States Government on account of their being badly infected.

YELLOW FEVER.

The following mortality from yellow fever in the 5 military hospitals in Habana is correct, it being taken from official figures and verified by careful investigation :

Deaths from yellow fever at Habana and Regla in military hospitals during the year 1897.

Months.	Habana.	Regla.	Total.	Months.	Habana.	Regla.	Total.
January	152	109	261	August.....	185	112	297
February	43	74	117	September	179	138	317
March	42	56	98	October	71	57	128
April.....	76	112	188	November	48	53	101
May	89	102	191	December.....	17	15	32
June	181	234	415	Total			2, 583
July	211	227	438				

This mortality represents about 10,000 cases of yellow fever. It will be noticed that deaths from yellow fever began to decrease in August, when they should have increased. This is accounted for by the fact that the Spanish Government, alarmed by the increasing death rate from that disease, began to place their sick in Habana Province in two hospitals at places known as Mariel and San Antonio de las Vegas. The following table will show the deaths from yellow fever in the other cities on the island during the calendar year 1897 :

Matanzas.....	238
Santiago de Cuba.....	658
Sagua la Grande.....	378
Cardenas.....	235
Cienfuegos	212
Manzanillo.....	230
Holguin, Guines, Remedios, Sancti Spiritis, etc	1, 500
Total.....	3, 451
Deaths in Habana.....	2, 583
Total deaths from yellow fever in military hospitals, 1897.....	6, 034

This mortality represents about 30,000 cases.

But few deaths have occurred in Habana and in the other cities during the present year, but as over 12,000 recruits have been sent from Spain to Cuba, nearly all of whom disembarked at Habana, by June 1st a heavy death rate will result.

SMALLPOX.

While this disease did not cause many deaths among the Spanish soldiers, still every city and town in Cuba has been ravaged by it, and as a result many houses are infected, and troops sent there should all be revaccinated. I will give here the deaths from smallpox from January, 1897, to March, 1898, inclusive, in the city of Habana, including soldiers and civilians :

January, 1897.....	57
February, 1897.....	581
March, 1897.....	319
April, 1897.....	93

May, 1897.....	44
June, 1897.....	9
July, 1897.....	4
August, 1897.....	1
September, 1897.....	5
October, 1897.....	7
November, 1897.....	10
December, 1897.....	15
January, 1898.....	31
February, 1898.....	62
March, 1898.....	58

Smallpox has prevailed to a considerable extent during the past six months at Sagua la Grande and at Matanzas.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The heaviest death rate from this cause existed at Habana and Matanzas. In the latter place both civilians and soldiers died in large numbers during the last six months of 1897, and a conservative estimate of deaths from this cause among the soldiers throughout Cuba during the year 1897 is 2,500.

MALARIAL FEVERS.

Under this head must be included what have been termed by the medical officers of the Spanish army pernicious fever and "caquexia paludica," and fully 7,000 men were lost to the Spanish army from malarial influences.

ENTERITIS AND DYSENTERY.

These two diseases caused no less than 12,000 deaths, due to the lack of proper food, both in the field and in the military hospitals. Nearly 5,000 deaths occurred in the 5 military hospitals in Habana alone, and the patients in these hospitals were better fed and cared for than at any other points on the island.

GLANDERS.

This disease rarely attacking men in this country, not infrequently occurs in Cuba; in Habana over 100 cases occurred among the soldiers. Glandered horses are seen daily on the streets of Habana and the other cities of the island.

LEPROSY.

While there is a lepers' hospital in Habana, there is no law compelling lepers to be confined in this institution, and they are seen on the public streets, and there are presumably hundreds of persons with this disease living under no sanitary restraint in the city of Habana.

TOTAL MORTALITY OF SPANISH ARMY IN CUBA.

The following figures are approximately correct for the year 1897 :

Deaths from yellow fever.....	6,034
Deaths from enteric fever.....	2,500
Enteritis and dysentery.....	12,000
Malarial fevers.....	7,000
All other diseases.....	5,000
Deaths from all diseases.....	32,534

This does not include hundreds of deaths that occurred among certain troops sent back to Spain on the 10th, 20th, and 30th of every month in the last stage of the different diseases enumerated above. Having observed those departures from Habana, I can safely say that 10 per cent of the 30,000 invalided home were destined to an early and positive death. These enormous death rates, it must be remembered, occurred in an army which at no time was properly cared for; badly clothed and badly fed, exposed to all the dangers of a tropical climate, they succumbed easily.

Much can be learned by the experience of the Spanish army of the past three years in Cuba. Given proper clothing, food, and medical care, our death rate should be less than half of theirs. Even the death rate from yellow fever can be materially lessened if an army of occupation is necessary during the coming summer.

With careful consideration of the subsistence supplies, proper clothing, modern camp sanitation, and revaccination against smallpox, the mortality rate of the Spanish army can be reduced 50 per cent.

Respectfully, yours,

W. F. BRUNNER,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

Smallpox in Mobile, Ala.—(Continued).

MOBILE, ALA., April 22, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to report that 2 cases of smallpox have been sent to the pesthouse during the past week, both in colored railroad hands from the country. The disease appears to have entirely ceased in this city.

The Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company has engaged the exclusive services of Dr. G. H. Fonde whose duty is to discover all cases between here and Montgomery and have them cared for and to vaccinate all train hands and railroad laborers. He has 9 new cases under treatment at Hurricane Bayou.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. D. MURRAY,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Smallpox in Charleston, S. C.

CHARLESTON, S. C., April 22, 1898.

SIR: I have to report that a case of smallpox has been discovered by the city health authorities in this city. Patient, a white male, came from Columbia, S. C., a few days ago. He has been separated, and all precautions taken by the local authorities to prevent spreading of the disease.

Respectfully,

JNO. VANSANT,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Cases of smallpox in Louisville, Ky.

LOUISVILLE, KY., April 22, 1898.

SIR: Referring to the case of varioloid at this station, reported on the 16th instant, I have the honor to state that the city health officer, Dr. Allen, saw the case with me, and we reached the conclusion that it was best to treat it in the isolation ward belonging to this reservation. The case is progressing favorably.

It was necessary to employ a nurse so that all communication with